

## Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PPT-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /049 W

----- 120615

P R 040830Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3990

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT AG FR US

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF EL MOUDJAHID BOMBERS BEGINS

REF: ALGIERS 0063, ALGIERS 0489, ALGIERS 0557

QM TRIAL OF SEVEN PERSONS ACCUSED OF PLANTING BOMB  
AT ALGIERS OFFICES OF FLN NEWSPAPER EL MOUDJAHID JAN 3  
BEGAN AT MEDEA STATE SECURITY COURT MARCH 2. CASE,  
WHICH HAS RECEIVED HEAVY PRESS AND TV COVERAGE, IS FIRST  
TO BE HEARD BEFORE STATE SECURITY COURT  
CREATED JAN 22. COURT PRESIDED BY AHMED MEDJHOUDA WITH  
TWO CIVILIANS AND TWO ARMY OFFICERS SERVING AS  
ASSISTANTS. IN OEPNING STATEMENT, MEDJHOUDA DENIED  
THAT COURT HAD BEEN CREATED ESPECIALLY TO HEAR THIS CASE  
AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS SUCCESSOR TO ORAN REVOLUTIONARY  
TRIBUNAL.

2. ON MARCH 2, COURT HEARD STATEMENTS DESCRIBED AS  
"SPONTANEOUS DECLARATIONS/ BY EACH DEFENDANT AND THESE  
FOLLOWED BY AS YET UNPUBLISHED INTERROGATION BY  
PRESIDING JUDGE. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PROSECUTORS'S  
CROSS EXAMINATION AND EFENSE PLEAS WILL BE HEARD  
MARCH 3 AND VERDICT EXPECTED LATE THAT DAY.

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3. FIVE OF SEVEN ACCUSED ALREADY FEATURED IN PRESS  
AND ON TV WHEN APPREHENDED IN JANUARY. THEY ARE:

A. MOHAMED SMAIL MEDJBER--ALGERIAN: WHEN  
ARRESTED IN JANUARY, MEDJBER WAS IDENTIFIED AS CLAUDE  
PASCAL ROUSSEAUX. (ALGIERS 63 INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED  
MEDJBER AKA ROUSSEAUX AS ONE AND SAME AS RENE ROUSSEAUX,  
A FRENCH LAND OWNER AND ALLEGED SECRET SERVICE  
OPERATIVE.) MEDJBER, WHO PRESS IN JANUARY IMPLICATED  
IN BOMBING OF ALGERIAN CONSULATE IN NICE, NOW SAID TO  
HAVE CONFESSED TO HAVING NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH ANTI-  
ALGERIAN SUBVERSIVE NETWORK BASED IN FRANCE AND  
MADE UP OF FORMER HARKIS AND MEMBERS OF OAS. HE  
DESCRIBED AS LEADER OF EL MOUDJAHID GANG.

B. JAY SALBY--"AMERICAN": SALBY ARRESTED IN  
JANUARY USING ITALIAN PASSPORT AND FALSE NAME ROMEO/  
AURELO BERTIN. IN PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION CARRIED  
ON TV, HE IDENTIFIED AS PARAGUAYAN NATIONAL NAMED  
GREGORIO VILLAGRAN ANDERSON. IN MORE RECENT  
INTERROGATION, HE SEEMS TO HAVE ACQUIRED NEW NAME AND  
TO HAVE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "AMERICAN FROM  
PENNSYLVANIA." SALBY SAID TO BE EXPLOSIVES EXPERT WHO  
ALSO PARTICIPATED IN BOMBING OF ALGERIAN EMBASSY IN  
LONDON. MARCH 3 PRESS DESCRIBES HIM AS "TYPICAL  
AMERICAN MERCENARY" FOUND IN LATIN AMERICA AND  
MEDITERRANEAN AREA.

C. ANDRE NOEL CHERID--FRENCH: CHERID CAME TO  
ALGIERS ON ITALIAN PASSPORT UNDER NAME XAVIER  
LECUMBERI MARTINEZ. HIS "REAL IDENTITY" IN JANUARY  
SAID TO HAVE BEEN IGNAZIO TEDESCO, BUT THIS NAME SEEMS  
ALSO TO HAVE BEEN ALIAS. IN JANUARY ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES  
CONSIDERED CHERID'S ROLE IN EL MOUDJAHID BOMBING TO  
HAVE BEEN MINIMAL. MARCH 3 PRSS ACCOUNT DESCRIBES HIM  
AS "NOSTALGIC PIED-NOIR."

D. MOHAMED HAROUN:. HAROUN IS ALGERIAN CONTACT  
FOR MEDJBER, SALBY AND CHERID. IN HIS DECLARATION  
MARCH 2, HE RECOGNIZED HIMSELF AS INSTRUMENT OF  
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OAS SYMPAHIZERS AND ADMITTED PLANTING BOMB AT  
CONSTANTINE MILITARY TRIBUNAL. HE EXPRESSED HOSTILITY  
TO SOCIALISM IN ALGERIA.

E. PAUL DANIEL:. DANIEL IS AGAING FRENCHMAN RESIDENT  
IN ALGIERS AND ACCUSED OF BEING CONTACT FOR GANG. HE  
INSISTED IN HIS DECLARATION THAT HIS ROLE LIMITED TO  
BEING A FRIEND OF MEDJBER'S FATHER AND OF CHANGING

1,000 FRENCH FRANCS FOR HIM. HE SAID HE HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL TO MEDJBER HIS ALGERIAN ASSETS FOR 150,000 ALGERIAN DINARS.

4. TWO OTHER PERSONS ON TRIL, HOCINE CHERATI AND LOUNES KACI, ARE BOTH ALGERIANS WHO SERVED AS CONTACTS FOR GANG. CHERATI ADMITTED FAILING IN ATTEMPT TO PLANT BOMB AT ALGERIAN RADIO AND TV OFFICES AND RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTION TO BOMB EL MOUDJAHID. KACI INSISTED THAT HE HAD BEEN DUPED AND THAT HIS ROLE LIMITED TO ACCOMPANYING CHERATI TO EL MOUDJAHID OFFICE WHEN BOMB PLANTED.

5. ONLY NEW INFORMATION EMERGING FROM STATEMENTS OF ACCUSED MARCH 2 WAS THAT MILITARY TRIBUNALS IN ORAN, CONSTANTINE AND BLIDA WERE ALSO PROPOSED TARGETS FOR BOMBINGS. REST OF ACCOUNT, INCLUDING UNSPECIFIC CHARGES OF CONNECTIONS WITH FRENCH INTELLIGENCE, REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED.

6. COMMENT: REPORT THAT MEDJBER WAS ALGERIAN HAS BEEN CIRCULATING IN ALGIERS FOR SOME TIME. WHEN "SALBY" FIRST APPEARED ON TV IN JANUARY, ANNOUNCER CALLED ATTENTION TO HIS "HEAVY AMERICAN ACCENT" BUT MEDIA DID NOT PRESS POINT.

7. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT BOMBERS WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY. PRESS ACCOUNT OF TRIAL HAS STRESSED DISPASSIONATE WAY HEARINGS CONDUCTED. HOWEVER, EVEN GREATER EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON THREAT TO ALGERIAN REVOLUTION REPRESENTED BY PLOT AND ON NEED FOR PUNISHMENT TO FIT CRIME.LYNE

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## Message Attributes

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